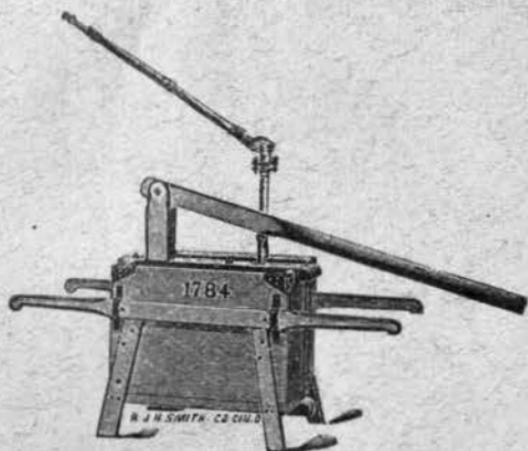


FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY.



× Salem & Fire & Department.

CELEBRATED ON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1893,

WITH A

→ GRAND PARADE AND BANQUET. ←

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SALEM, N. C.  
CRIST & KEEHLN, PRINTERS.  
1893.

## Officers of the Vigilant Company==1843.

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Captain—JACOB SIEWERS.  
1st Lieut—FRANCIS FRIES.  
2d Lieut—LEWIS BELO.  
1st Engineer—NATHANIEL VOGLER.  
2d Engineer—HENRY RUEDE.  
3d Engineer—LEWIS EBERHARD.  
Sec'y and Treas.—CHARLES BRIETZ.

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## Rough and Ready Company==1893.

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### *OFFICERS:*

Captain—F. C. MEINUNG.  
1st Lieut—W. C. GRUNERT.  
2d Lieut—F. H. VOGLER.  
Sec'y and Treas—E. V. TESH.  
Engineer—W. S. PFOHL.

### *MEMBERS:*

D. L. HANES,	SAM'L FAIRCLOTH,
A. J. PEDDYCORD,	S. F. MORTON,
CHAS. STEWART,	J. W. T. SHUTT,
FRANZ KIMEL,	JAMES PETREE,
E. R. BREWER,	J. E. PETERSON,
RUFE TESH,	S. G. ROGERS,
CICERO SINK,	M. I. LUMLY,
D. J. HANES,	WESLEY EVERHART.
BEDFORD BROWN,	

# 50th Anniversary

OF THE

## SALEM FIRE DEPARTMENT.

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There has been in Salem for 120 years an organized resistance to the fire-fiend, and no portion of the town's history has shown the practical results of the discipline, the bravery, the enthusiasm of earlier days than the terrible holocausts which have swept over our neighbor, Winston, during the past months. This association in danger and exhausting labor has made the present Fire Department of the town a unit in all that concerns its welfare. This feature—the absolute devotion to duty—is a characteristic of the Salem company; and lead to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Vigilant organization of 1843.

For months, in a quiet, unpretentious way the details were thought out, and suggestion after suggestion added, until the whole on the appointed day, at the set hour, moved forward in perfect order and detail.

Saturday, September 16th, 1893, was the day named for the celebration, and every arrangement was on that day carried out with absolute correctness. With much labor and research the names of those who had been connected with the old Vigilant company and all others who had since served in the Departments' ranks had been obtained, and those who yet remained alive were invited to take part in the parade and banquet. How they responded, the living and the absent, will be told in these pages.

## THE PARADE.

Already, half an hour before the time, around the great portico of Salem Female Academy, were assembling the veteran firemen of the companies of the past fifty years—some 250 in all, from gray hairs to beardless youths.

The procession was under the command of the following Marshals: G. A. Boozer, Chief; Aids: W. B. Taylor, W. C. Crist, T. C. Davis, L. A. Brietz, H. S. Crist, W. R. Petree, J. A. Brown and John Ebert.

Promptly the invited companies were on the scene from Winston, with their handsome outfits, steamers, hose carts and reels, and hook and ladders, glittering in the bright sunshine. The formation of the Parade was as follows:

1. Chief of Police of Salem and three aids.
2. Salem Cornet Band.
3. Float bearing the first fire engine brought into the South, manned by four small boys, in uniform and having banners: Junius Goslen 1784, Lindsay Meinung 1855, Clarence Clewell 1868, and Ralph Siewers, 1888.
4. The Winston Steamer, drawn by four horses.
5. The Winston Hose Wagon drawn by four horses.
6. The Winston Hook and Ladder Wagon and Company.
7. The Winston Volunteer Company.
8. The Salem Steamer drawn by its regular team and one other, three abreast.
9. The Salem Hose Wagon.
10. The Salem Hose Reel.
11. The Salem Company, with handsome new uniforms.
12. The old Vigilant Engine.
13. Carriage containing Master of Ceremonies, Speakers, &c.
14. Carriages with the Mayor and Aldermen of Winston.
15. Carriages with the Mayor and Commissioners of Salem.
16. Carriage with four surviving members of the Vigilant Company, namely, Messrs. T. F. Crist, A. Fogle, Wm. Peterson, and E. T. Blum. Mr. Charles Brietz, the fifth, was detained at home by sickness.
17. Forty-four carriages with the Veterans of the Salem Fire Department.

The route was up Main Street to Shallowford Street; thence to Cherry; thence to Fifth; thence to Main; thence to Salem Square.

The general interest of the public was exhibited in the large numbers who turned out to see the long and orderly procession pass by.

On returning to the Square the Winston Steamer fired up and gave a fine exhibition of her double acting force pumps. The Hook and Ladder Company put up their ladders, both from the wagon and against the North Side of Salem Female Academy, and showed fine drill and discipline.

At about four o'clock the crowd dispersed, to prepare for the Banquet at the Academy dining hall.

#### THE BANQUET.

Promptly at 8 o'clock this closing of the day began. After a fine selection by the Salem Orchestra, Mr. H. E. Fries, the Master of Ceremonies, made a happy address of welcome to the 300 firemen present. The response was by Col. G. E. Webb, Acting Mayor of Winston.

Mr. Fries then introduced Mr. E. A. Ebert, who read the historical sketch in a very pleasing manner. It will be found in this pamphlet, beginning on page 8. This work was compiled by Mr. William Pfohl, assisted by Messrs. Jas. T. Lineback, E. T. Blum, Wm. Peterson and C. T. Pfohl.

At the conclusion of this Mr. Fries then introduced Hon. R. B. Glenn, District Attorney for Western North Carolina, who made the address. Mr. Glenn's reputation as an orator was ably sustained on this occasion, and for thirty minutes he held his audience in closest attention by his vivid description of the terrible ravages of the fire-fiend; the bravery of firemen and our own especially; he spoke ardently of their self-sacrificing answer at all times to the call of thankless duty; and in the name of his fellow citizens of Winston returned hearty thanks for services rendered during the past winter's desolation and loss.

At the conclusion of Mr. Glenn's address, the audience filed out of the Chapel, two and two, and marched to the dining-hall. Here they were seated by the Chief Marshall and his assistants; while the Salem Orchestra played a stirring march.

The dining-hall—a very handsome room at any time, was beautifully decorated with bunting and fall flowers. Festoons and garlands were everywhere, suspended from ceiling, encircling pillar, while vases of goldenrod and roses gave the tables a most tempting aspect as their glories swayed to and fro over the damask and silver of the Academy's sideboards.

Electricity and gas vied with each other in their brilliancy, and their glowing and gleaming through the festoons and flowers made the whole scene one of great beauty.

The company was waited upon by twenty-five of the daughters of Salem, under the superintendence of Mrs. J. H. Clewell, of the Academy.

The *menu* was well suited to the place : no wines or liquors of any kind were served, coffee being most acceptably substituted.

As the feast went on the good fellowship of the guests increased. Each table evidently had its own wit-master, and joy and mirth abounded. Never have so many of the citizens of the town been *together* as they were on this occasion ; and in that institution, too, that is the pride of their lives, which rising up from the past like a sphinx, has all the harshness cut from the stern features, leaving only lines of innocence and youth and beauty.

Under the head of Toasts came letters from H. P. Christie, of New York, read by E. H. Wilson ; Frank M. Baker, of New York ; Frank Semons, of Massachusetts ; Rev. F. R. Holland, of Hope, Ind., read by C. T. Pfohl, (Mr. Holland being a former pastor of Salem Moravian congregation) ; Prof. M. M. Warner, of Philadelphia, Pa., and read by E. T. Blum ; A. L. Greider, of Lebanon, Pa., and read by Wm. Pfohl. Letters from parties in this State as follows : T. A. Green, Newbern ; J. D. McNeil, Fayetteville ; C. D. Benbow, Greensboro ; Chief McHegan, Tarboro, and G. G. Seyffert, Salisbury. Dr. Griffith, Secretary and Treasurer of the State Firemen's Association, was called upon and pleasantly responded in a review of the work of the Association. Wiley Keith recited, amid great applause, his stanza on the "Firemen." Capt. A. J. Gales, of the Winston Volunteers, was too full for utterance. Phil Lybrook, of the Hook and Ladder Company, spoke briefly of his company's fidelity to the Salem boys and the common cause in which they were all enlisted.

Under Reminiscences came the reading of two warrants by Mr. Glenn against Prof. E. W. Leinbach and J. E. Mickey for not attending drill, and fining them \$1 each. The first bore date of 1849 and the second of 1855. Prof. Leinbach was not present, but Mr. Mickey was, and answered to the charge that he was either very sick or had business at the lower part of town, which had resulted most happily for him. Mr. Comenius Chitty, of Bethlehem, Pa., and a former Salemite, also spoke of the past and his experience as a fireman with the Vigilants in the forties.

Bishop Rondthaler then spoke a few words of congratulation on the success of the anniversary, stating that he would have more to say from his pulpit to-morrow night. [This he acceptably did by preaching a sermon to the firemen on Sunday evening, in the Home church. The firemen attended in a body. The text was Psalms 127. 1.—“Except the Lord build the house, etc.” The effort was edifying and impressive and was calculated to leave a lasting impression upon his hearers.]

Principal Clewell spoke of the Hook and Ladder exhibit that day, and of the dexterity of the boys in reaching the fourth story window with so many bright eyes upon them; of his feeling of security with such well-manned organizations under the great responsibility that rested upon him, and of his hearty support of the fire departments of the two towns at all times.

Mr. H. E. Fries then thanked all who had in any way aided in making the occasion a success. As Master of Ceremonies no one could have more courteously or satisfactorily carried out the programme than Mr. Fries, for he is not only one of the most progressive citizens of Salem but is a zealous and active fireman also.

Just at midnight the banquet was brought to close with the vocal solo, “Lost and Saved,” most beautifully sung by Mrs. H. E. Fries, with accompaniment by the Salem Orchestra.

With the benediction by Bishop Rondthaler the guests dispersed. The occasion will be long remembered as one of the happiest events ever celebrated in Salem.

## History of the Salem Fire Department.

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READ BY E. A. EBERT, ESQ.

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FELLOW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SALEM FIRE COMPANY:

We have met together this evening for the purpose of celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Vigilant, now the Rough and Ready Fire Company, and it is right and proper that we should, for when we consider how seldom there was actual need for such services it is a wonder that such an organization should have existed for so long a time.

There are some present to-night who will remember the meeting held in the old Town Hall, on Friday, September 15th, 1843, for the purpose of electing the first officers of the "Salem Vigilant Fire Company." No doubt, it seems a long time since that important meeting was called to order, but did you know, fellow members of the Vigilant Company, that on the night you organized more than three score years and ten have passed away since the first steps were taken which led to the formation of a Fire Company, and that to-night the Salem Fire Company is in reality celebrating its one hundred and twentieth anniversary.

I have been requested to read the history of the Salem Fire Company and in so doing will ask you to turn and look back—far back, to the day of Salem's beginning and note the steady improvements that have been made for fighting the dreadful enemy with which we have to deal.

In the year 1766 the settlement of Salem was begun by a company of Moravian settlers from Bethabara and from Germany. In growth, when compared to other towns, it was slow but steady; in improvement we can truly say it was near to, if not quite in the lead. In 1772 six years after its beginning it contained the following principal houses: The Church which stood where the Main

Academy building now stands ; the Brothers' house, now the Widows' house ; a tavern, a tannery and about seven dwelling houses, in all about eighteen houses situated mostly on Main Street between New Shallowford and the old Salem Hotel. The population numbered one hundred and fifty-eight.

As everything in those early days belonged to the Moravian Church, the Church, through its various governing boards, made and enforced the rules pertaining to the welfare of the town. It worked the streets, it owned the tavern and the tannery, the bakery and the store, and it made the rules for governing each. It also organized the first fire company and passed the fire regulations. As the town could not boast of a printing press in those days, it was the custom to assemble in the church at least once a year and hear the minister read the rules of the church and town and the fire regulations. The first rules and regulations relating to fire were read in 1773, just one hundred and twenty years ago this year.

The following is a fair translation :

#### REGULATIONS REFERRING TO CHIMNEY SWEEPING JANUARY, 1773.

At a meeting of the Fire Inspectors, held January 25th, 1773, the following observations were made :

1st. It would seem necessary, that in the larger kitchens, as the Hotel, the Sisters' House and in the Brethren's House, the chimneys should be swept out five times during the year, whereas in family houses twice or three times might be sufficient. But, as in the burning of dry wood, in stoves as well as in fire places, less soot is formed than where green wood is used, the Fire Master should consider the necessities of each case, rather than confine himself to stated periods.

2nd. It is desirable that a young man be selected, who should be instructed in the business of Chimney Sweeping, who could in time relieve Bro. Braesing. Bro. Aust, his apprentice boy, was suggested. To him no objections were found. Chimneys that measure 16x18 inches,—also 14x18 inches are most convenient to be swept ;—although the latter, if not straight, will present some difficulties.

3rd. In reference to log houses, it was resolved and ordered that all pipe openings in the chimney must certainly be examined once a year, and even if no special flaw be found, the plastering must be renewed. In this connection an instance was recalled, where a fire could easily have occurred, if similar precautions had

not been taken. It was especially recommended that Daniel Schnepis' house be carefully examined in this particular.

4th. It was agreed that the pay of the chimney sweeper should be about the same that was paid in Pennsylvania.

5th. Paragraph first was again brought under consideration and in reference to it, it was decided unanimously that in family dwellings chimneys should be swept once during the Summer and twice during the Winter. The sweeper is to be cautioned, when ascending the chimney, not to rest on top of it when his work is done lest he fall with the chimney to the ground, as the brick are not laid in lime mortar.

6th. In conclusion, it was asked, would it not be advisable to make it a rule that all chimneys be swept out, and that henceforth the burning out of chimneys should be altogether disallowed and discontinued.

The next great step undertaken by the church authorities was the system of water works which was commenced in 1778. This first water works, which consisted merely in bringing the water in earthen pipes from Cool Spring, near where Calvary Chapel now stands, to various places in the central part of town, was greatly improved in 1828 by the erection of a pump in the hollow at the east end of Bank Street. This pump forced the water up the hill into the reservoir at the south end of the Avenue, from whence it was conducted in earthen pipes to some ten or twelve cisterns, situated in various parts of the Town.

These cisterns were supplied with a common wooden pump into the stock of which was screwed a brass nipple, to which a hose could be coupled for pumping water into the fire engine. These cisterns were the fire hydrants of olden times.

The first fire in Salem is recorded as follows: "Early in the morning of January 31st, 1781, the cry of fire disturbed the peaceful slumbers of the citizens of Salem. The tavern was in flames and the inmates with their children had barely time to escape. The kitchen building was destroyed but the stables and other outbuildings were saved."

This fire, no doubt, had some effect upon the citizens, for in 1785, two fire engines were brought from Europe. One was a large engine, mounted on low wheels. The pumps were worked by a large wooden beam which was pivoted in an upright piece in the center of the box and projected over each end so that the twelve

men who pumped could stand on the ground. This engine is quite familiar to the members of the Vigilant Company.

The smaller engine, intended to be carried into a building, as no hose were used on the large engine, is before you this evening.

These engines at the time they were brought were no doubt as good as could be found. The larger one remained in service until 1859, and could throw a stream of water to the top of the church steeple, whilst the small one can still do its part if required.

The following is a translation of the first fire regulations which were passed soon after the arrival of the first fire engines.

#### TREATISE ON FIRE REGULATIONS, SALEM, 1785.

Distress by fire is of such a nature that no one will hesitate at such a time to assist according to his ability. And as Salem lies somewhat scattered, has few inhabitants, and owing to its situation cannot expect assistance from abroad, much will depend upon a well considered division of our weak forces. It is therefore well to know.

1st. What precautions may be taken to avoid danger of fire?

*a.* That no method of building be adopted whereby the community is endangered. This may happen if chimneys have not a good foundation; or are not of sufficient width to be swept; or are not strong enough, nor plastered; or when a chimney is not provided with at least one damper, or does not extend high enough above the shingle roof.

*b.* That no chimney be burnt out.

*c.* That in front of each fire place, a sufficiently broad and plastered hearth be laid, so that the flooring is not placed too near the fire.

*d.* That tile stoves be not placed too near to joists or wooden partitions or walls, and that the falling out of coals be provided for.

*e.* That no dangerous practices be allowed, such as drying wood on the stove, or piling it up between the stove and the walls; not to use wood too long for the stove, which would cause the flame to flash out of the gate; or when a stick has burned through, the end should fall out. Much less to pile up the wood which has been on the stove, neither to hang rags upon it to dry, nor place any combustible matter upon it.

*f.* That bake ovens be carefully located, and no live coals be allowed to lie around.

*g.* That no smoke chambers be constructed at chimneys in dwelling houses, unless they are entirely fire proof, in case chimneys should take fire.

*h.* That lighted candles and coal pans be not left without oversight, and no open light be taken into stables, lofts, or any place where hay, straw, tow or other combustibles are kept, but that lanterns be used. Neither should any one enter such places with lighted tobacco pipes. It is even doubtful if smoking in the streets or yards should be allowed.

*i.* That spit boxes be not filled with saw dust.

The Fire Inspectors shall consist of: 1. The Warden of the Congregation; 2. The Fire Overseer; 3. The Overseers of the Water and Fire Engine; 4. The Master Carpenter; 5. The Master Brick Layer; 6. The Potter Master; 7. The Chimney Sweeper. These shall have their meetings about New Year, Easter, St. John's and St. Michael's Day, and shall,

2nd. Look after the Institutions, which in times of danger are to be carefully guarded. In their meetings, they should ascertain if any one entrusted with special duties has been unfaithful, and how soon other persons can be advantageously used. They are to consider how often inspections are to be made and ascertain if stoves are kept properly cleaned out. They are to examine the engines and ladders, and see to it that hooks and buckets are in order and in sufficient quantities, and that all these are easy of access; provide the Fire Inspector and Engine Master with keys to the engine house. and see that the fire buckets, which are never to be used for any other purpose, are always in place. They recommended localities where water tanks and cisterns may be placed and are to make report of such meeting to the Warden's College, calling attention to special needs which require assistance.

3rd. How to act in cases of fire and what arrangements to make therefor:

1st. Any one discovering fire, whether by day or night, shall first notify the inmates of the house; then give notice at the Brethren's House, and then to the fire overseers. Whenever the Night Watch suspects fire, he must immediately examine into it and communicate with the Watch in the Single Brethren's House, so that this one may at first notice be prepared to arouse the Brethren, and in case of actual fire ring the Alarm Bell; then proceeding from house to house, awakening the citizens.

2nd. The Fire Overseers hasten to the fire and have the entire control of the occasion, no one having any right to countermand.

3rd. The Engine Masters and their allotted Brethren bring the engines into play ; twelve persons to the large one, and four to the smaller one, and remain with them to the end, not entrusting them to anybody else.

4th. In like manner, the four designated brethren, who attend to the ladders, the three to the hooks, and the three that bring axes are all under the direction of the chief overseer.

5th. The rest of the inhabitants bring in their fire buckets. The Single Sisters are placed in two rows, the full buckets are passed up one row, and the empty ones down the other. If necessary these rows may be extended by taking in the boys and the weaker and more feeble men.

Bro. Rights will assist in arranging the Sisters, and Martin Sneider, the boys and men. They will also see to it that the dipping and the pouring out of the water is carefully done. It will also be well for a couple of men to place a tub on a cart and appoint some to draw it.

Some brethren will be appointed to clear the house of furniture under the direction of brethren Praezel, Benzein and Peterson. These will provide themselves with "Tomahawks," to break open doors and closets and will carry out all valuables to a safe distance, where they can be guarded. The brethren Marshall, Hebert and Koffler will act as assistants to the Fire Inspectors.

The married Sisters who have the children to take care of, will remain at home to protect their houses from robbery. As there is also great danger from falling sparks, the Brethren Schmidt, Priem, Schnepf, Merkle, Myers, Bagge and Koehler, and the Sisters Kolfer and Krause are appointed to keep watch over neighboring buildings.

Bro. Peter will release the teachers in the Boy's School. Bro. Lewis (physician) will be in readiness to give professional assistance in case of accident. Should assistance come in from our neighbors or from laborers in town, these will help whenever they can, or be directed to points where there is greatest need.

Then come the names of Brethren appointed to the various offices which are omitted.

As the water works of those days were not so extensive as at present, it was evident that a bucket brigade would be very greatly needed in case of fire, as the engine would have to be placed right

at the burning building. The church therefore ordered six dozen leather fire buckets and sold them to the citizens at cost, which was \$2.75 a piece. Each house was required to have at least one bucket; some had as many as six, and when a fire occurred the men had to form a line and pass the buckets of water to the engine and the women to return the empty ones to the well or cistern.

In 1831, the town having grown larger, the citizens thought that one large engine was not sufficient and a committee was appointed to raise the necessary funds with which to procure a new one. In the report of the committee entitled the "Valuation of Buildings in Salem, August, 1833, preparatory to an assessment for raising funds for fire engine and hose," we find the number of buildings assessed was seventy-five, and their valuation was one hundred and three thousand dollars.

Early in the Spring of 1832 the new engine arrived. It was a five-inch double pump, capable of throwing two hundred gallons of water per minute. It was made in Philadelphia, Pa., by Merrick & Agnew, and cost \$400. The two hundred feet of two-inch leather hose, purchased at the same time, cost fifty cents per foot. The whole of the apparatus, delivered in Salem, cost \$595. This little engine continued in service fifty-two years, and is now serving our sister town of Bethania.

In order to illustrate the manner in which the Church controlled the Fire Company, I will read the appointments for the year 1842. As they were written in German, the following is a translation:

"1. FIRE DIRECTORS.—John Vogler, Henry Leinbach, and the Warden. To them was committed the power to make all necessary arrangements for the extinguishment of fires.

"2. THE NEW FIRE ENGINE will be in charge of the organized company, and operated by them, viz: Jacob Siewers, Captain; Traugott Leinbach and Nathaniel Vogler, Engineers; and the following members: Adam Butner, Henry Ruede, Henry Winkler, William Winkler, Thomas Boner, John Friebele, Augustus Fogle, Solomon Mickey, Charles Reich, J. Henry Shultz, John Siewers, Samuel Shultz, Nathaniel Byhan, Ephraim Brietz, Floridore Keehln, Philip Reich, Jacob Reich, Theodore Keehln, Traugott Crist, William Shultz, Joshua Boner, William Peterson, John Heisler, Levi Blum, Emanuel Reich, Christian Ruede, Evan Boner, Alexander Ackerman, Allan Ackerman, Edwin Beitel, Constantine Herbst, Julius Steiner, Naaman Reich, David Cook, Thomas Fet-

ter, Sanford Waggoman, Carlos Strupe, Alanson Welfare, Edward Spach, Hubert Ebert, Theophilus Hege, Traugott Chitty.

“3. THE OLD LARGE ENGINE.—Francis Fries, Captain ; Edward Belo and Constantine Banner, Engineers. Mr. Banner will bring with him all the male operatives at the factory to work the engine, and, if possible, the female help to assist in handling buckets. Besides these the following persons will help at the engine : Theodore Pfohl, David Clewell, Lewis Belo, Jacob Fulkerson, Ephraim Conrad, C. F. Sussdorf, Henry Shaffner, Henry Fries, Alexander Giersh, Peter Fetter, Sanford Shultz, Robert Waggoman, Van Blum, Levin Belo, William Hauser, Edwin Meinung, Alexander Meinung, Rudolph Crist, John Tavis, Theophilus Vierling, Henry Stoltz, Edmund Blum, Augustus Fetter, Lewis Winkler, John Hine, Christian Ebert, Henry Friebele, Henry Meinung, Jonathan Miller.

“4. THE SMALL FIRE ENGINE.—Elias Vogler, Captain, assisted by Alexander Hauser, Mr. Shouse at Jacob Reich’s, and the negroes, Harry Vogler and Albert Shober.

“5. HOSEMEN.—Charles Cooper, foreman ; Alexander Blum, Philip Laughenour, Gottlieb Byhan, Karston Peterson, Christian Blum, John Holland, Henry Senseman and Timothy Vogler.

“6. LADDER AND HOOKS.—Lewis Eberhard, foreman ; Jos. Stauber, James Hall, Ernst Vierling, Henry Blum, John Ackerman, Zacharias Rights, William Ackerman, Mr. Stoltz, at Eberhardt’s, the negro David Shober, and also the negroes belonging to Francis Fries.

“7. FOR PUMPING AND DRAWING WATER AT CISTERNS AND WELLS.—George Foltz and William Boner, foremen, and the following named negroes : Jeremiah Fishel, Adam and Tom at the tavern, Lewis Foltz, Jim Brietz, Stephen Butner, Lewis Boner and other negro men living in town not mentioned before

“8. FOR EMPTYING THE BUCKETS INTO THE ENGINES.—Augustus Zevely, Benjamin Warner, Albert Butner, William Meinung and Edward Leinbach.

“9. FOR FORMING ROWS FOR HANDING BUCKETS.—Isaac Boner and Frederick Meinung, organizers, assisted by William Gotte and visitors ; also, Edwin Senseman, with the school boys, and Dr. Keehln, with the sisters. All citizens of the town not heretofore named are to take their places in the row. Sister Hueffel is requested to place the sisters in the proper positions.

"10. CARE AND REMOVAL OF THE ARCHIVES, &c.—Henry Van Vleck, Theodore Shultz, C. A. Beck, M. Hulthin, Conrad Kreaser and Dr. Shuman.

"11. FOR PROTECTING AND GUARDING THE REMOVED PROPERTY.—Charles Brietz and Abraham Steiner.

"12. THE WATER SUPPLY will be under the control of John Chitty.

"13. THE FIRE ALARM will be given by the bell in the steeple.

"14. THE CHURCH KEYS are to be found at the Warden's, with the Night Watchman, at the Brethren Van Vleck's, Jacobson's, Clauder's, Theo. Shultz's and Samuel Shultz's.

"EVERY HOUSEHOLDER is expected to bring with him his fire bucket, of which one, at least, should be found in every dwelling."

By the laws of North Carolina all able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45 years were enrolled in the State militia, and were required to drill four times a year with the company of which they were members, and also attend the yearly General Muster. About 1843 an act of the Legislature was passed, which gave the citizens of several towns in the State the privilege of organizing fire companies and accept membership and drill in them in lieu of the regular militia drill. The members of these companies were regularly enrolled with the militia of the State, and the officers were duly commissioned by the Governor, and were liable to be called on for service in case of insurrection or invasion, and, in one instance, the Salem Fire Company was called upon to act as guard at the public execution of a criminal. It was probably owing to this concession that the old Salem Military Company was disbanded and the formation of an organized Fire Company perfected.

On September 8th, 1843, the first meeting was held in the Town Hall for the purpose of discussing the formation of a fire company. Col. Emanuel Shober was made chairman, and E. T. Senseman, Secretary. At this meeting it was decided to form a company, and 34 expressed their willingness to join. On the 11th another meeting was held. Jacob Siewers was chairman and H. S. Leinbach, Secretary. At this meeting a committee on constitution and by-laws was appointed, and on the 14th the same was adopted. On Friday, September 15th, 42 members signed the constitution, and the following were elected as the first officers of the Salem Vigilant Fire Company, viz: Captain, Jacob Siewers; 1st Lieutenant, Francis Fries; 2d Lieutenant, Lewis Belo; 1st Engineer, Nathan-

iel Vogler ; 2d Engineer, Henry Ruede ; 3d Engineer, Lewis Eberhardt ; Secretary and Treasurer, Charles Brietz. The latter is the only one of the seven officers elected 50 years ago, yesterday evening, that is yet alive. This Company was chartered in 1843, and the officers soon after received their commissions.

The engine house in those days stood on the west side of the Salem Square, opposite the old post office. In the center of the Square was a cistern under the roof of which were kept the hooks and ladders of the company. According to the old rules, the company had to drill at least two hours every three months and consequently the Square became the general muster ground of the company, the test being the star on the church steeple. When this was attained the engine was considered good and the pumps capable of doing full duty. After the new engine was purchased, the old one was placed in a house on Shallowford Street, convenient to the old Cotton Factory, and this place also became a favorite drilling-ground. No doubt some who are present to-night will remember the fatiguing runs made in those days to beat the hose carriage or bucket men to the scene of the trial. At the Factory the capacity of the old engine was tested against the newer one. The other favorite places of trial were the old Salem Hotel, the Brother's House and the Potter's Garden. In those days, as well as at the present, Fire Company Day was a gala time for the boys, and many a shower bath was hilariously taken by them for fun's sake.

After two years of hard practising and a great deal of court-marshalling, the efforts of the members were rewarded by the excitement of their first fire, which occurred at 6:30 p. m., Saturday, April 26th, 1845, at the Siewer's cabinet shop. That the company did its part well is shown by the burnt place in the weather-boarding on the south-west corner of the building. The greatest damage at this fire resulted to the engine by sand being dipped up out of the branch with the water and getting into the pump.

The next fire occurred Wednesday night, April 22d, 1853, at 10 o'clock. From a copy of *The People's Press*, dated Saturday, 25, 1853, we take the following : "On Wednesday night, about 10 o'clock, a fire was discovered on the premises of Mr. Foltz, in an outhouse distant only a few steps from the dwelling-house, which was fortunately subdued without doing much damage excepting the destruction of the building in which the fire originated and the dairy. The dwelling-house was in imminent danger. The family having retired for the night, signs of the fire were first noticed at

Zevely's Hotel, and the alarm immediately given, when a large number of citizens, many aroused from their slumbers, promptly repaired to the scene with the engine, and fortunately aided by the entire calm which prevailed, succeeded in extinguishing the devouring element. The origin of the fire was accidental and discovered just in the nick of time to save the dwelling." The engine, on the way to the fire, was stopped at the cistern in front of the Salem Hotel to be filled, so that upon its arrival at the fire it could at once be put to work. For some reason or other the engine was not sufficiently supplied with water, until the command of old Dr. Keehln set things right: "Form a line, brethren; form a line! empty buckets to be passed by the sisters and girls, and the full buckets by the men and boys. When my well gets empty go to Tim Vogler's, and when Tim Vogler's gets empty go to Waggoman's."

On April 22d, 1854, the Fire Company appeared on drill for the first time in a uniform, which consisted of a wide-brimmed oil cloth hat and an oil cloth cape. This uniform continued in use until the company was disbanded in 1861, and we are told that one of the old boys marched bravely into battle with the full assurance that that which protected him from water would certainly be a shield to him under fire. Whether or not oilcloth was proof against Yankee bullets, one thing is sure, our friend Snider returned home safe and sound.

On April 14th, 1855, the company drilled for the first time with their new four-wheel hose carriage. This carriage remained in use about 30 years, and is now doing duty in Bethania.

In 1858 it became evident that a new engine was needed, as the old imported one was about worn out by hard practice, and the Vigilant was not enough to protect the town and its growing industries. On December 10th the new engine was tested for the first time, and worked admirably. This engine was the first suction engine in town and could throw two streams. It was purchased in Baltimore, where it was known as "The Watchman." It is now generally known as the Fries engine, as it was purchased by Messrs. F. & H. Fries and the Town Commissioners together. It is the original Rough and Ready engine, so called from the picture of General Zachary Taylor which used to be upon it. This engine was always stationed at the Wool Factory, and was used until 1884.

On June 9th, 1861, the Company, in view of a recent act passed by the Legislature, that all males between 18 and 45 years of age must attend military drill, met in the engine house for the

purpose of considering the situation, as they did not wish to do double duty. After a thorough discussion it was decided to turn the fire apparatus over to the Town Commissioners. This was the end of the Vigilant Company. It had been in existence 18 years and done duty at 4 fires.

On Saturday, December 23d, 1861, at 6 P. M., the Gas House caught fire and was not extinguished until almost all of the wood-work was consumed.

On July 1st, 1864, there was another fire. At 1 P. M., the dwelling-house of the late Mr. Henry Shaffner caught fire, and was badly damaged before it was extinguished. As the Fire Company had disbanded at the breaking out of the war and most of the members were in the army, the citizens took their places at the engine and the women formed a bucket line and worked together with the men. This proved to be the only dwelling-house in Salem, in a period of more than one hundred years, that was destroyed by fire.

After the close of the war the Fire Company was reorganized. May 18th, 1866, fifty-nine members were enrolled, and the officers elected were as follows: Captain—E. A. Vogler; 1st Lieutenant—A. F. Pfohl; 2d Lieutenant—H. W. Fries; Engineers—J. O. Hall, L. D. Eberhard and W. T. Vogler; Secretary and Treasurer—C. T. Pfohl. Their first and only fire occurred at Mr. S. T. Miller's, on Marshall street, June 30th, 1866.

On May 13th, 1868, the Fire Company was placed in a more efficient condition by adopting a new Constitution and By-Laws. The first officers were: President—E. A. Vogler; Vice President—T. F. Keehln; Treasurer, Charles Brietz; Chief Engineer, J. Blickenderfer; 1st Assistant Engineer, W. T. Vogler; 2d Assistant Engineer, George E. Belo; Secretary, John A. Vogler; Assistant Secretary, C. B. Pfohl. This was the beginning of the present "Rough and Ready Fire Company," which was chartered in 1868. The well known uniform, the red flannel blouse, with a row of white buttons running diagonally across the front from left shoulder to right hip, was adopted May 13th, 1868. The first fire which this Company attended was in the Spring of 1871, when the Emanuel Reich smokehouse, on Happy Hill, was burned.

The first engine house stood in the Salem Square until it was removed, about 1855, after which the engines were kept in a house on Academy Street, just west of Tar Branch. About 1874 the engine house was again removed; this time to the lot of the late

Mr. Henry Meinung, on Main Street, where it remained until the present house was built in 1886.

In 1884 the town purchased a new Button hand fire engine, which was used for the first time at the Miller Planing Mill fire, December 1st, 1884. This engine contained all the latest improvements, and was first-class in every respect, but it remained in use only two years, when it was exchanged for our present Button steamer which was tested October 22d, 1886.

Among the more recent improvements in our Fire Department may be mentioned the new Hose Wagon (built by the Captain of the Department, F. C. Meinung), and the Electric Fire Alarm System, both of which were purchased last Spring.

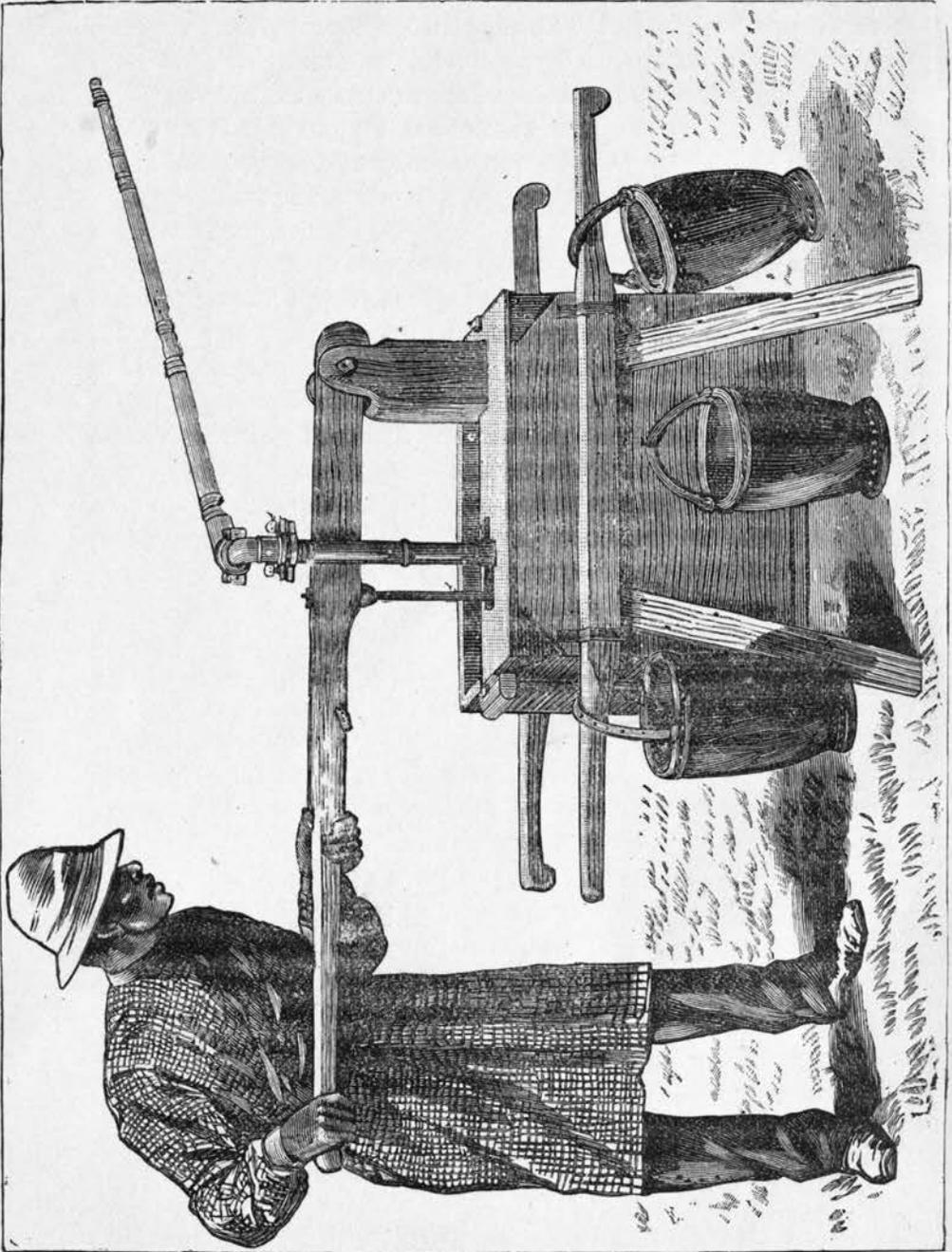
We have now traced the history of the Fire Department from the beginning to the present time, and have seen how every step taken was for the betterment of the Company. We have seen how each piece of apparatus was an improvement over its predecessor and we cannot help wondering at the improvements that have been made since the old Vigilant Company organized.

be Since September 15th, 1843, almost 500 different persons have longed to the Salem Fire Department, of whom one-half are still living, being scattered throughout 15 different States.

The number of fire alarms in Salem from 1766 to 1868 was 9. From 1868, the organization of the Rough and Ready Company, to the present time was 24 ; making 33 fire alarms in Salem in the 127 years of its existence. 10 of these fires were so destructive as to render the buildings where they occurred unfit for use.

The number of alarms and fires in Winston since 1877 is 78. Making the total number of alarms and fires in the two towns 111.

The number of alarms and fires in Salem and Winston, since the Rough and Ready Company was organized, is 102, the majority of which were answered by the Salem Fire Company.



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Salem,  
nc

